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The Organized Farmer

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA

10128 - 98th Street, Edmonton, Alberta. Phones 25481 - 25965

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Special Notice

All the memberships received so far have been checked and membership cards issued and sent from this office to local secretaries. If anyone has paid membership and their card has not been received by the secretary of their local, please notify Central Office at once, so that a check-up can be made.

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GENERAL SCIENCES

President's Report

The past month has shown progress all along the line. Signed up membership is now close to the 61,000 mark. Our overworked staff is finally catching up with the tremendous burden of work arising out of Roundup Day with the Annual Convention and some board meetings thrown in.

Before this appears in print, all memberships will be checked and the membership cards mailed out to local secretaries. Entering this vast mass of names on the membership rolls by Locals and Districts is going along well and the completion of this big job is in sight. The completion of the mailing list for the Organized Farmer is a still tougher job and it will be another month before this can be completed. From the results so far, it would look as if there will be over 15,000 new subscribers to our paper when the lists are completed. This will bring the circulation of the Organized Farmer to over 25,000 as against some 11,000 last year.

There are some encouraging signs on the legislative horizon. Just recently the Legislature passed a motion on a non-party vote asking the Government to enact legislation making it illegal for any person to carry firearms onto a farmer's property without first getting permission from the land owner. This is along the line of the F. U. A. Program. The vote on this question cut right across party lines with the Cabinet being split on the subject.

This is a very interesting development and it indicates that the Legislature is paying attention to popular feeling on this subject. There can be no doubt that farmers are much aroused over this question of trespassing on farm lands. The arbitrary actions of hunters has aroused keen resentment in all parts of the Province and farmers are pretty well a unit in demanding action. Of course this resolution by the Legislature is not actual legislation, but it is clearly an instruction to the Cabinet to bring in such legislation. It is to be hoped that they meet the situation adequately.

Another sign of progress is the announcement by the Provincial Government of a plan to finance homesteaders in a certain amount of land clearing. This is along the lines of our request to the Cabinet and should be very helpful in the homestead areas.

Another thing of still wider interest to farm people is the provision in the 1955 budget of special grants of \$6,600,000 to reduce school mill rates. By this expenditure it is hoped to reduce the school mill rate for operating purposes to 25 mills. Of course those school divisions which have large indebtedness may have an additional 3 to 5 mills or so for interest and debenture payments. Even so, this special grant will help materially to reduce mill rates. This action together with other school grants will probably bring the Provincial Government's share of the cost of education somewhere not too far off the 50% which we asked for.

In both these matters the Government is to be

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congratulated on steps in the right direction. We shall look forward to further progress along these and other lines.

Of course we are expecting action at this session on Marketing Legislation, whether or not producers of any particular line are prepared to use it at once is of no consequence. The legislation should be there to be used by producers whenever they get ready.

Unfortunately the news from Ottawa is not so encouraging. The feed grain subsidy has been reduced and a lower price for butter is being talked of. We have protested on both issues. However it seems that farmers do not pull the weight they should at Ottawa. Perhaps it is another case of a Government having such a large majority that they do not pay much attention to the people's interests.

The defeat in the House of Commons of the Voluntary Requisition Plan will be a disappointment to some of our people. However the motion sponsored by Mr. Decore, got a lot of support in the House of Commons. All the Alberta members, who were present, supported it with the exception of Mr. Harkness of Calgary, and Mr. Wylie of Medicine Hat, who voted against. The vote was 91 to 66. This is quite a lot more support for this proposal than was indicated last year. The vote cut right across party lines with members of all parties supporting the Voluntary Requisition Plan. However the key ministers of the Crown, Messrs. Howe and Gardiner, opposed it and that rather stacked the cards against the project.

Another announcement from Ottawa is more encouraging. It is that the Government has finally decided to amend the Grain Act so that grain overages in elevators will become the property of the Canadian Wheat Board and the proceeds go into the Pool for distribution back to the producers. One thing not yet clear is whether this amendment applies to all grain elevator overages or just to those in Terminal Elevators. It should apply to both.

In any case this is a victory for the Western Farm

Farm Women's Union of Alberta

REPORT OF F.W.U.A. PRESIDENT

Mrs. C. T. Armstrong

Since the Convention took place in early December we are working on all the important things that need to be done. In recent issues of the Organized Farmer your resolutions as presented to the Government and the replies given, have been reported to you.

In the meantime some other work has been done in your behalf, a brief report is as follows:

Crime Comics — I was invited to meet with the committee appointed by the Provincial Government on Crime Comics. The committee of seven from various parts of the Province are sincere in their efforts to remove objectionable comic and horror books from the news-stands. I was asked to read my brief as presented at the first hearing in Edmonton, and was commended on behalf of the F.W.U.A. for our viewpoint. As I reported to our F.W.U.A. Board, we can be of help by reporting any objectionable publication to the proper service. This committee has appointed Mrs. L. G. Fisher, 805 - 1st Ave., West., Calgary, responsible for receiving this information.

Farmer - Hunter Relations — The F. U. A. Board asked two other board members and myself to interview Hon. Ivan Casey, on the problem of hunters receiving permission of resident farmers before

Unions. For three years we have demanded that this injustice to grain farmers should be stopped. At last it has been done, at least in part. The Farm Unions have fought this fight alone and to them should go the credit for this victory.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Decore, M.P. for Vegreville, who sponsored the resolution. Let us hope he will not be discouraged by this set-back.

It is not too early for locals to begin planning for our Farmers' Holiday. This year it comes on Friday, June 10th. In 1955 we have three extra reasons to plan a special celebration. First because it is the 50th Anniversary of our Province of Alberta. Secondly we should celebrate our success in achieving a majority membership for the first time in the history of Alberta. The third reason for a special celebration is because we are building our new Farmer Union headquarters in Edmonton this summer.

In that connection I suggest that you plan to use at least part of the proceeds of Farmers' Day Celebrations to help the Building Fund. With a little luck in regard to weather this year, we can have Farmers' Holiday Celebrations this year that will serve a threefold purpose. It is time to start making your plans now.

going hunting on the farmer's land. Out of this interview we straightened out a few things that hadn't been done in our meeting with the Cabinet and from there we approached the Alberta Fish and Game Convention which met in Calgary. Both Archie Hogg and myself put the farmers' problems clearly before them and we were given a very courteous hearing and I believe we did much right there to improve the farmer-hunter relations. I'm sure something will be done in this legislative session to improve matters.

Workshops — One of the forward steps, necessary for some time, has now been taken by a series of workshops in each sub-district. Here officials and members met on the local level and exchanged information in a friendly fashion.

I know that I really enjoyed meeting the members and gained much from them. I only hope that I contributed as much to them. I think the friendly contact will do much to cement our organization in promoting the best things for all of us. I understand that some workshops were postponed because of cold weather, and hope another date will be set soon. All areas should have this workshop experience.

New F.W.U.A. Locals — Several new F.W.U.A. locals have been organized in various parts of the Province. I was invited to organize the new Jubilee Local at Hussar. It was an anniversary event, since twelve years ago I organized the Hussar U.F.W.A. and both these locals will have a good, active membership. I feel a local sense of pride in these locals, for until the first local was organized, I was a member at large and it is really nice to belong to a local. I hope that if there are any farm women members who wish to organize a local, that they will get in touch with their district officials or write to Head Office.

Alberta Council on Child and Family Welfare — As in past years, the A.C.C.F.W. has named the F.W.U.A. President, 1st Vice-President of their organization. We meet every month and the meetings are always very interesting in the discussions of social welfare problems.

F. W. U. A. HIGH-LIGHTS

Gwynne F.W.U.A. Local No. 918 (Bittern Lake) meeting was opened with a roll call which was answered with a "Home Safety" suggestion. They have made a start on a scrapbook on South Africa. Guest speakers at the meeting were Mrs. W. Ross, speaking on "The Canadian Association of Consumers", and Mrs. Pearce of Millet, who gave an interesting report on the last Annual Convention.

A \$25.00 book of "Bricks" for the Building Fund was sold by Matwayne F.W.U.A. Local No. 716 at their last meeting. They are sewing for the local hospital, and are also making a banner for their local which will be shown at the Hobby Fair with group projects. This local also sponsored a talk by Mr. Boronyk, of Vermilion School of Agriculture, on Horticulture.

* * *

West High River F.W.U.A. Local No. 1211 report holding concert and dance (by two F.W.U.A. and one F.U.A. locals) for the benefit of the Building Fund. A talk on Horticulture was given at the meeting by Mrs. Archie Hogg, along with slips of cactus plants.

* * *

It is suggested by Fleet F.W.U.A. Local No. 1104 that if every Farm Union member in the Province donated 50c to the Building Fund, the amount needed would be raised, and their secretary was instructed to collect from their F.W.U.A. members. Their foremen and riders agreed to turn over their convasser's commission cheque to the fund.

* * *

A very interesting meeting was held by the Pine Hill F.W.U.A. Local No. 1013 (Red Deer) when they had an exchange of seeds, slips bulbs, etc., and held a "panel discussion" on "School Lunches." Plans were discussed for a Home Nursing course.

* * *

Clover Bar F.W.U.A. Local No. 602 had as guest speaker at their last meeting, Mrs. C. T. Armstrong, President of the F.W.U.A., who spoke on the Aims and Problems of our Organization.

* * *

The Heath F.W.U.A. Local No. 703 at their March meeting all agreed that their one suggestion for a better cook book would be "better backs" as many of the books had already lost their covers.

* * *

A discussion was held by Eaglesham F.W.U.A. Local No. 108 on buying a place for the holding of social gatherings for the raising of funds for the local. They have decided to do sewing for the Grande Prairie Hospital. They report that the cook books have been selling very fast. Meeting was concluded by playing a game at which prizes were given. A lovely lunch was served by the hostess.

* * *

Meetings of the Arrowwood F.W.U.A. Local No. 1201 are held every first and third Wednesday of each month, at which time they have some form of entertainment along with the regular business. The money received for prize winning handicraft has been donated to the Building Fund. They have found the "buzz sessions" most successful. Mrs. C. T. Armstrong, Provincial F.W.U.A. President, as guest speaker, gave information and advice from the Provincial level of the organization.

Roll call was answered with "Farm Safety Rules" by the Swalwell F.W.U.A. Local No. 1017. A donation of \$25.00 to the Building Fund was approved. Guest speaker, Dr. Elliott, gave an interesting address "A House is not a Home until its Planted," telling of trees which are most suited to the Swalwell area.

* * *

The regular monthly meeting of the Brooks F.W.U.A. Local No. 1302 was held at the home of Mrs. Gus Regehr, Thursday, February 17th, with 17 members present. Plans were laid for the study of South Africa and her neighboring provinces. Mrs. Joyce Shackleton was appointed chairman of the study groups. Mrs. Don Berg, Sub-director for Sub-district No 3, sent an announcement of the F.U.A. Rally to be held at Duchess on March 2nd, at which time he hopes to form a local of the F.U.A. at Duchess.

* * *

Roll call of the Fairview F.W.U.A. Local No. 201 was answered with "a delayed plan which I intend to accomplish." It was suggested that Miss Eleanor Sanford be asked to attend a future meeting to give a talk on her European tour.

* * *

Asker F.W.U.A. Local No. 902 (Ponoka) plan to have Miss Mabel Rasmussen at their April meeting to speak and show slides about Scotland. They also plan to have Miss M. Breton, District Home Economist, speak on home freezing of foods, on May 3rd.

* * *

Hussar F.W.U.A. Local No. 1304 plan to co-operate with the Wintering Hills Local No. 1326 to sponsor the 4-H Calf Club in Hussar, and will offer a trophy or prize for competition to be held in May.

* * *

Stony Plain F.W.U.A. Local No. 501 plan to hold a sewing demonstration in the school on April 4th, 5th and 6th for all members.

* * *

Inland F.W.U.A. Local No. 615 received first prize of \$5.00 for their scrapbook on Pakistan and plan to donate the scrapbook to the Vegreville Public Library. The F.U.A. Local was invited to attend the ladies' meeting and hear the bulletin on Health and Insurance given by Mrs. John Zaseybida. Mr. Nick Kuss gave a very interesting report on the Inter-Provincial Conference held at Winnipeg last summer.

NORMANDEAU ADDRESSES BIG MEETING

In spite of the big storm and drifted roads, a crowd of over 100 people turned out to hear Louis Normandeau speak at Fort Kent on March 18th.

Speaking eloquently in both French and English, Mr. Normandeau outlined the progress being made through the Wheat Pools and Wheat Board. He also upheld the F.U.A. as the farmers' own Union and explained the principle of Producer Marketing. Mr. Normandeau's address was enthusiastically received.

Junior F. U. A. News and Views

ROBERT GARDINER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships of \$50.00 each are offered by the United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Limited for annual competition at the Alberta School of Agriculture—to a member of the Agricultural Course at Olds; to a member of the Household Economics Class at Vermilion and to either a boy or girl at Fairview.

These scholarships are open for competition to first year students and are made available to the winners upon registration for the second year of the course.

The awards are made for proficiency in those subjects of the course that deal with basic education and with training in the economics of farming and home-making and in rural leadership. Subjects are the following:

Agricultural Course — English, including literature, composition, public speaking and debating; mathematics and farm bookkeeping; farm management; rural organization and leadership.

Home Economics — English as above; mathematics and household accounting; household administration and management; social studies in home and rural life.

Two \$100.00 scholarships are offered to the University of Alberta for a third year student in Agriculture and for a student taking post graduate work in Alberta.

Jr. F.U.A. District Friendship Day

There will be a Junior F. U. A. District Friendship Day on Saturday, June 4th, at Elk Island Park. A program will be arranged for the afternoon, a pot-luck supper at 6:00 p.m. and dancing in the pavillion at night. All Juniors in District 6 are asked to attend and any from surrounding districts are also invited.

WE DID IT BEFORE AND WE CAN DO IT AGAIN

In 1950, Eileen Beckner represented the Junior Branch of the Farm Organization in the Calgary Stampede Queen Contest and went on to win and become Miss Calgary Stampede of 1950. Others of our candidates have come close, but none have succeeded in bringing the crown back to the country where it belongs.

The Junior F. U. A. are again sponsoring a candidate for Miss Calgary Stampede, and with our

greatly increased membership in the Farm Organization, we should be able to walk away with the honors this time.

Tickets should be easy to sell this year, as they are only 25c each, and will not only help our candidate win, but will also give the buyer a chance of winning a new car.

This is wonderful publicity for the F. U. A. and the proceeds enable the Juniors to carry on their very fine program. Let's all get behind our Juniors and make sure that the 1955 Miss Calgary Stampede is representing the Farmers' Union of Alberta.

On February 19th the girls of the Conrich Juniors held a tea at Chestermere Hall. They raffled an 'Autograph quilt' which they had made last winter. The theme for the Conrich Juniors in 1955 is "Farm Safety."

Resolutions From Winterburn F.U.A.

At a recent meeting of the Winterburn F. U. A. three resolutions were passed and have been received at Central Office.

The first suggests that a farm to farm canvass be put on each year by the locals between October 15th and November 15th and for that period only, a commission of \$1.50 on each family membership and \$1.00 for each individual membership be allowed to the local.

The second resolution demands that the question of amalgamation between the F. U. A. and A. F. A. be finally decided one way or another at the 1955 convention.

The third resolution suggests that all F.U.A. members should take a greater interest in politics, and in particular to see to it that all candidates nominated shall be responsible to their constituencies rather than to a party leader. An annual constituency meeting to which the member shall answer, is also suggested.

ISPAS F. U. A.

Ispas F. U. A. Local No. 628 decided to hold regular meetings during the year, the first Wednesday of each month.

George Hawaleska, Sec.-Treas.

Grassland F. U. A. Local No. 318 held a mass meeting recently at which Mr. Carl Stimpfle was guest speaker. He spoke on different aspects of the period followed. There were over 200 people in attendance.

Open Forum

Letters for publication in the Open Forum must be brief. Pen names may be used if desired, but the name of the sender must accompany the letter. The Editor reserves the right to condense any letter to conform to space limitations

Dear Editor:

While deeply appreciating what the Provincial Government has accomplished and still endeavors to accomplish for and on behalf of the people of Alberta, I sometimes think, that the application of the principles asserted, do not in my opinion comply with their endeavor to recognize their stewardship to God, that Government shall be, unto "the people with equity." This arises when the question is asked: Is the R. E. A. a real co-operative? Only in the sense that the farmers co-operate to pay the Bank 3½% interest, to enable the Power Company to use their line, sell them power and enjoy the farmer's capital investment free of interest. A real co-operative should have included the Power Company, so that share capital would have been issued by the Company to the farmer for his investment, with a voice in the management and policy and interest payable on his share capital. The Provincial Government does not believe in debt, it insists that the Bank of Canada shall advance loans free of interest, and so, they place the farmer in the position of the Bank of Canada, to issue capital loans for the benefit and use of the Power Companies free of interest, to build power lines, to sell power produced by the people's natural resources, to make a large profit for their shareholders. I realize the difficulties and cannot say the Provincial Government really does not believe in a debt-free economy, but they do charge the farmer 3½% interest, creating colossal debt, which is carried by the farmer, to finance the Power Companies.

To lead the farmer "up the garden" to have permitted him to sign such a contract is in my opinion at variance with the principles they acclaim and proves to me, that they refuse to believe or follow our Heavenly Father, who is no respecter of persons.

Of course at first the Provincial Government did not intend to treat the people thus, for in their terms of reference for the Alberta Power Commission, they knew that the people would at some time request the Government acting through the Power Commission to construct and maintain power stations to supply and sell electricity, so they made provision for this procedure in the terms of reference. Oh yes, I remember the plebiscite and the result. I remember an eleven-page typed statement sent to me by J. L. Robinson dated 26/3, 1952, as a reply to a resolution, submitted to the Government. What a pity, expediency is deemed better than principle, that

respect must be paid to "the Princes of this World" or like Pilate washing his hands, exclaiming: "I am innocent" while delegating his power and authority to a few self-important directors to cut off his light and life, to crucify a man, carrying a heavy load in distress. "For they know not what they do."

A. Hillson,
Elnora, Alberta.

Dear Editor:

I was very much interested in an article in the Open Forum, December issue, and signed by Bill Carson, Turner Valley.

First of all, I will quote from that article: "There are at present commercial organizations that use the name of farmers' co-ops in an effort to get the farmers' trade. Many of those commercial organizations called Co-ops are not the friends, but the enemies of the Farmers' Union."

I will ask my friend Bill Carson to analyse the financial report of the Farmers' Union published in the same issue of the Organized Farmer on page 7, he will find this: Grants and donations — Alberta Wheat Pool — \$1,000.00; United Grain Growers — \$2,500.00. Enemies of the Farmers' Union? I say: "No." Does my friend know that 90% of all directors and delegates of farm co-ops are members of our Farmers' Union? Does he know that many of them encourage and have always encouraged the organization of F. U. A. Locals, believing in their hearts that said locals are the foundation of our whole farm co-op movement? Enemies of the Farmers' Union? No, Mr. Carson. I want to quote again from the same article: "Those fellows usually have an axe of some kind to grind. In many instances, they are not bona fide grassroots dirt farmers. Their interests are usually in the distribution of farm products, and are not entitled to membership in the Union. The Union must free themselves from all non-bona fide membership."

An axe to grind? I can't see it, Mr. Carson. Get rid of those non-bonafide farmers, he says. Have we reached the stage when the pioneers of this movement must be cast aside like scrap iron and considered "parasites"? I see very little evidence of that feeling at farm conventions which I never fail to attend. Now regarding "grassroots dirt farmers." With the disappearance of the little red school house, the coming of the big school unit, and pretty soon the county system, many farmers have decided to move to the cities or big towns and operate their farms from there. If this trend continues, within ten years, instead of "grassroots dirt farmers" you will find that the grass will disappear, the roots will disappear, the dirt may even disappear, and you will have to find another name because half of our farmers will be living in our cities. Shall we call on you for advice then, Mr. Carson?

Louis Normandeau
10180 - 107th Street,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Producer Marketing Board Notes

as presented to the Western Stock Growers Annual Meeting by Roy C. Marler, President of Alberta Federation of Agriculture

(Continued from February issue)

8. We should enjoy the same markets and the patronage of the same consumers that we have now.

9. We should be able, in respect to some commodities, to eliminate unnecessary risk and fluctuations so that supply and demand should function more effectively.

10. A board could be a stabilizing influence in meeting export market demand. A board should be able to curtail price competition in selling when small surpluses become evident or even when a small surplus is suspected.

11. It is anticipated that in the case of cattle for instance or hogs, that a board would leave the buying, processing and distribution to the trade on the basis of competition in services.

12. Seven provinces in Canada have agricultural products Marketing Acts: Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

13. Producer marketing boards are now operating in six of these provinces. Manitoba, while having the legislation, has no producer boards operating.

14. British Columbia has two producer boards. One marketing tree fruits — one marketing vegetables.

15. Tree fruits have been marketed for over 20 years in B. C. Selling fruits in all provinces of Canada and to many other countries. B. C. markets fruit in Alaska, Bermuda, British West Indies, South America, Ceylon, Philippines, Hong Kong, Britain, Malaya and in 38 of the states of the U.S.

16. They marketed 679,506 boxes of apples in Alberta in one year.

17. B. C. has been marketing vegetables for over 16 years. In 1953 the government authorized a plebiscite among growers which indicated that 90% of the vegetable growers wish to continue marketing through their own producer boards.

18. Saskatchewan has operated a honey producers' board during the last two years.

19. Ontario is operating 18 producer marketing boards, distributing 33 products. The last to commence was the hog board in January, 1953. They started operation after a favourable vote of 90% had been taken of the hog producers.

20. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are marketing hogs through a producers' board.

21. Prince Edward Island is marketing potatoes through their own producers' board.

22. In Alberta we have the experience of the Canadian Wheat Board marketing wheat, oats and barley.

23. The compulsory principles are the same in the Wheat Board Act as those pertaining to producers' marketing Board Acts. The farmer is still able to market grain with any company he wishes, but all companies are obliged to buy grain in the name and on behalf of the Wheat Board. Please keep in mind that the Wheat Board does not actually handle the grain. The Wheat Board has full authority to regu-

late sales and establish prices. The Wheat Board is a Federal Government Board.

24. The selling of fluid milk in Alberta cities is supervised, regulated and priced by the Public Utilities Board of Alberta. This is a Provincial Government Board. The compulsory features are also embodied in this board operation. After over 20 years of milk control in Alberta neither the producers, distributors or consumers have asked for decontrol of fluid milk here in Alberta. Neither have either asked for a change in the price of milk for over 3 years now.

25. It is believed in Alberta that producers of each major product should be responsible for marketing the product which they produce. If the majority of cattle producers wish to try this method of marketing, they should be responsible themselves to draw up a marketing plan, setting out the way they themselves, as owners of the product, wish to sell their cattle. The same would be true with the producers of other products such as hogs, eggs, seeds, etc.

26. The authority embodied in a Producers' Marketing Act for agriculture must of necessity be very comprehensive. To be successful the producers must have full authority to control the sale of their product. If not, the black marketers would undermine the Board operation and defeat the efforts of producers by offering price concessions and other disturbances.

27. The purpose of producer controlled marketing boards is to eliminate selling competition by directing and selling through one central selling agency. (Think of a farm auction sale — one auctioneer doing all the selling and receiving all the bids) — the result — no competition in selling. Competition is among the buyers. Example, Wheat Board selling all wheat of the three Prairie Provinces. No one else in Canada can offer this wheat to any buyer at less money — other nations can of course. The Wheat Board receives domestic bids in Canada and export bids from other nations throughout the Western world. In other words the Wheat Board receives all bids for the purchase of wheat.

28. Perhaps the only way farmers, as food producers, will ever receive a reasonable balance in the provincial national economy is to accept responsibility of selling their services — their agricultural food products — as other members of our society do. Example, doctors, lawyers, labour, business and industry. Everyone except farmers are doing this marketing of their services, they are pricing their services to you and I.

29. To do this selling job we must do four things —

(a) Have equal bargaining power with the buyers in putting a price on the product. In other words authority to establish a price or to adjust the price.

(b) We must have complete selling authority through having full control of the product.

(c) We must have authority to equalize payment to each producer according to grade, quantity and so forth.

(d) We must have authority to make a small levy to cover the cost of handling and marketing of surpluses.

Dear Editor:

Because hogs, cattle and dairy produce are still at reasonable price levels, the matter of grain surpluses is not causing the concern that it should.

We are blandly assured that there is a market for last year's half crop of grain and maybe a little more. To say they can only find a market for half a crop is a calamitous statement. What is the surplus situation going to be with normal crops, can we continue to build granaries, store grain and finance on the present quota? How long will it take for the surpluses to disappear? It could take as long as the last depression lasted. Hard times alongside an abundance, is a sign of a deceased society.

Of course farm production has increased all over the world, in particular, in importing countries. Our customers for farm produce have been treated pretty badly by the Government at Ottawa, every kind of obstacle has been placed in the way to make it difficult to trade and our customers have been forced to increase their production of grain on land and in climates not suitable for profitable grain farming.

The grain surpluses have not been created in the last year or so, they started in 1947 when all of our production could easily have been disposed of, about the time when Japanese trade was discouraged on the grounds of low standards of living and U.S.A. trade on account of mass production. It has always been the cry of our customers "we buy more from you than you buy from us." The result of this policy is the present situation.

It is well known that Canada can manufacture almost everything, one might say. Is that a reason why we should sell, just the 50 million bushels used for home consumption and let the other 300 million bushels rot in granaries? If we are to sell any of that 300 million bushels, we can only do so by bringing Canada, something that is manufactured in Canada.

All our produce can be disposed of, there is still an expanding market in India, Japan and China. Yes China, it is even a good policy to make an enemy country dependent on one for food. (That is if China were an enemy country).

A former U. F. A. Premier recently made a statement which is worth repeating and remembering, he said: "Marketing methods are useful only so far as we have markets. Maintaining and expanding markets abroad, is a part of national trade policy."

W. Horner.

Dear Editor:

1905 to 1955 — a period of fifty years during which we, farmers, have hopped our way from one farm organization into another, from it to a new one and on again; always with the same objectives — security, stability and equality (equity, parity). Ridiculous, isn't it? Laugh if you will. Then remember.

Territorial Grain Growers; Society of Equity, Al-

berta Farmers' Association, U. F. A., U. F. A. Political, U. F. A. Co-operative, United Farmers of Canada (Alberta Section) C. F. A., A. F. A., A. F. U., and in 1949 the amalgamation of U. F. A. and A. F. U. to form the F. U. A. Eleven organizations in 50 years. Every five years we make another "yump." In 1955 do we hop again into a National Farmers' Union? Then in 1960 do we jump again into "The Big Union"?

All our jumps have been toward security, stability and equality which other groups; financial, industrial, professional and labour enjoy. These other groups compromise, merge and consolidate their resources. They are all in a better position than we because they have not wasted their time, energy and money in "Operation Grasshopper." Recent headlines carried this: "Labour Groups to Merge."

With the largest membership — 61,000 — in a direct farm organization to date; let us stop all this jumping about and use some uncommon good sense. Let us make good use of our excellent position. Work together in full co-operation, not in competition, to give strength to the A. F. A., C. F. A., our many co-operative enterprises and more important to the individual farmer who is the backbone of all.

The January issue of "Organized Farmer" carried the words "our compulsory affiliation with the A.F.A." This should have read our constitutional affiliation. Our strike action clause could be labelled "our compulsory strike action clause." Whereas, both are constitutional, and if one or the other is removed, then, the remaining one should be nullified, automatically.

We had a fine demonstration of just how far other groups will come to our support in a crisis at the W. S. G. A. Convention, when Mrs. Alberta Clark, representing the Consumers' League of Canada, said, if Marketing Boards will raise the prices of farm produce, then her organization was against them. That was helpful from the Consumers' League to which many F.W.U.A. belong.

Vera W. Gillespie

R. R. 1, DeWinton, Alberta.

Dear Editor:

With better than 57,000 bona fide farmers signed up in the F. U. A., it is proof that the farmers of Alberta have donned the war paint and are ready to do battle to protect their own interests from all quarters. They are now in a position where they need no favors nor amalgamation with any of the smaller groups, especially those whose membership contains many non-bona fide grassroots dirt farmers. I would say, keep your membership dyed in the wool grassroots dirt farmers. With its present leadership, it is bound to forge ahead and get the ardent support of its members.

However, there is another question that has been much discussed by farmers down through the years. It is the relationship between the farmer and wage earner. It has been a long recognized fact that farm-

(Continued on page 18)

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District	February, Men	To Date, Men	February, Women	To Date, Women	Feb'y, F.W.U.A.	To Date, F.W.U.A.	Feb'y. Assoc.	To Date, Assoc.	February, Juniors	To Date, Juniors	February Total	To Date Total
B. C. Block.....	63	493	22	174	—	—	—	—	18	122	103	789
District 1.....	45	2024	11	603	6	170	—	—	9	433	71	3230
District 2.....	84	2586	20	747	12	210	—	—	17	636	133	4173
District 3.....	78	2534	24	508	9	378	2	—	25	644	136	4064
District 4.....	27	3451	7	1301	1	56	—	—	6	1089	41	5897
District 5.....	296	2687	56	771	78	183	—	—	100	666	530	4307
District 6.....	42	4437	1	1348	39	747	4	3	24	1358	106	7893
District 7.....	89	3656	26	859	11	436	—	1	25	761	151	5713
District 8.....	35	2902	10	859	7	165	—	2	9	532	61	4460
District 9.....	99	3441	26	765	9	379	1	1	20	689	155	5275
District 10.....	47	3573	3	316	22	514	—	12	6	414	78	4829
District 11.....	100	1618	29	397	19	238	3	6	17	259	168	2518
District 12.....	144	2258	35	262	38	725	—	8	13	370	230	3623
District 13.....	26	791	5	88	21	197	—	—	3	136	55	1212
District 14.....	53	1239	7	408	7	90	—	—	8	288	75	2025
TOTAL.....	1,228	37,690	282	9,406	279	4,488	10	39	300	8,397	2,099	60,020

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10128 - 98th Street

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 Vice-Pres. — Carl J. Stimpfle, Egremont.
 A. B. Wood, Dewberry.
 Mrs. W. C. Taylor, Wainwright.
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 2113 - 29 Ave., S.W., Calgary.

Edmonton, Alberta

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EDITORIALS

THE MARKETING LEGISLATION

The Provincial Government has at last brought down the long-awaited marketing legislation. At this time of writing the bill has been given first reading in the Legislature but it has not yet been printed, and so we have been unable to study its provisions closely.

However from the outline given in the Legislature there are at least two rather extraordinary provisions in the new act. The first is that cattle should be specifically excluded from the act. It would appear to us that, if as we contend, the principle of Producer Marketing is sound, there is no logical reason to exclude any farm product from the scope of the act. It would appear that this illogical action has been taken by the Government in order to placate that small minority of cattle producers who have been expressing their opposition to producer marketing through the Western Stock Growers' Association.

Another extraordinary provision in the new act is that requiring a 51% majority of those registered

as producers, to vote in favor of a marketing plan before it can be put into effect. This means that in order to carry, a plan must receive an absolute majority of all those entitled to vote whether they actually vote or not. This would mean that if 100 producers are entitled to vote and only 70 of them actually do so, then to carry the plan, at least 51 out of the 70 must vote in favor.

This would appear to us to be an ingenious way to render the new act inoperative. The usual practice under a democracy is for those who vote to decide the issue at stake. When we go to the polls to elect a member of the Legislature, only those who vote are counted. It is not required that any member get a majority of all those entitled to vote in the election.

In the Alberta Legislature today it is safe to say that there is not a single member who was elected by a majority of all the voters of his constituency. Some of them had good majorities of the votes actually cast, but in no case would their vote add up to an actual majority of those entitled to vote.

Since an actual majority is not required in any other case, why should it be required in this case? Why should those who are not interested enough to vote be counted against a marketing plan?

This extraordinary provision is evidently intended to make it as difficult as possible for producers to set up their own marketing boards. However it

may prove to be a boomerang to those who devised it. Meantime we shall hope that the bill will be amended before it is passed so as to restore ordinary democratic principles in the taking of the vote. It should also be broadened to include cattle and sheep.

PRICES OF FEED GRAINS AT ELEVATORS

By H. Y.

From the letters which we receive at Central Office and comments which we hear, there seems to be a lot of misunderstanding in the country over the prices charged by elevators for feed grain sold to farmers. Some people apparently cannot understand the difference between what a farmer receives when he delivers grain and what he pays for the same grain if he is buying. Some people apparently have the mistaken idea that the buyer in Alberta is charged the freight to Fort William in the price he pays.

To make the matter clearer we have got some figures from the Alberta Wheat Pool office which may help to clarify the situation somewhat.

In the first place when a farmer takes grain to an elevator to sell he only gets an initial payment on it. When he buys grain, he pays the final price. The price he pays varies according to the price at which the Wheat Board is selling the grain on the particular day he buys. There is also a handling charge of 2c per bushel which goes to the elevator from which he buys.

As the Board's selling price varies from day to day and month to month there is at times when the market is strong, a very wide variation between the initial payment and the price on grain being bought out of the elevator. At other times the spread is not wide. Last fall for example, the coarse grain market was high and farmers naturally noticed the wide spread. Right now the selling price is considerably lower, but the initial payment is the same and will be increased soon.

To take an actual example, on March 17th the selling price of No. 1 feed oats at Winnipeg was:

	74½c per bus.
Add 2c elevator charges.....	2c
	<hr/> 76½c
Deduct freight Edmonton-Fort William	8⅞c
	<hr/> Selling price at elevator Edmonton area 67⅝c
March 17 price on No. 1 feed barley	106¾c
Add elevator charges.....	2c
	<hr/> 104¾c
Deduct freight Edmonton-Fort William	12½c
	<hr/> Selling price — Edmonton area..... 96¼c

Prices in other areas of Alberta will vary according to the freight rates. Where the freight rate is higher, the grain will sell cheaper. Prices on wheat sold from elevators are determined in exactly the same way as oats and barley. Rye and flax, of course, are not under the Wheat Board.

From the above will be seen how baseless is the idea that farmers are charged the freight when they buy. That is never done. At the present time the Ontario farmer will have to pay at least 85c per bushel for the same feed oats which costs us 67⅝c here. That is true even after allowing for the freight subsidy which is paid by the Dominion Government. That pays only a part of the cost.

FOOD MARKETING MARGINS

About one-half of the retail value of food originating on Canadian farms goes to the farmer and the other half is absorbed in transforming the product and in placing it in the hands of the consumer, according to G. E. Woollam in an article in the August issue of the Economic Annalist. He listed the farmer's share of the retail food price and the marketing margin of twelve selected commodities in 1953 as follows:

Commodity	Farmer's Share, %	Market Margin, Cents
Wheat Flour, lb.....	39	4.6
White Bread, lb.....	15	10.2
Beef, good quality, lb.....	58	26.3
Eggs, A Large, doz.....	75	17.0
Fluid Milk, qt.....	53	9.9
Creamery Butter, lb.....	77	15.0
Cheese, plain process, ½ lb. pkg.	27	24.1
Potatoes, 10 lbs.....	41	34.6
Canned Peaches, 15 oz. tin.....	21	15.9
Canned Tomatoes, 28 oz. tin.....	24	18.5
Canned Corn, 20 oz. tin.....	17	15.2
Canned Peas, 20 oz. tin.....	20	16.9

F. U. A. NEWS

Please note that the Benalto F. U. A. Local No. 932 hold their meetings in Benalto, the second Monday in each month at 8:00 p. m.

* * *

Manfred F. U. A. Local No. 936 held a White Elephant Sale recently and netted \$32.20. There was also a military whist held the same evening. Local members were auctioneers at the beginning, then Walter Rinsky provided the professional auctioneering service.

* * *

Mr. G. A. Kinch wishes to express his sincere appreciation for the lovely personalized brief case presented to him by the members of the old Heinsburg A. F. U. Local No. 499.

Have You Formed a U.F.A. Co-op Local?

Has your Farmers' Union Local organized a U. F. A. Co-op Local? Throughout Alberta, many farm communities are using the services provided by U. F. A. Co-op Farm Supply Department. These organized farm groups are finding that they save money on their farm supplies and also develop more interest in their farm organization.

It's easy to form a U. F. A. Co-op Local. A local can have many members but a minimum of 6 farmers is all that is needed to organize. These 6 farmers, together with any others who wish to trade through the co-op local, must be members of U. F. A. Co-op. Membership entails the holding of a \$5.00 common share in U. F. A. Co-op. This is a permanent investment and no further payments by the individuals are required.

Very often an F. U. A. Local is the basis for the U. F. A. Co-op Local, using the same officers. Interest developed in connection with the co-op local is reflected in more interest in the F. U. A. Local and a greater appreciation of the value of organization.

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THE AUSTRALIAN WHEAT PLAN

Last fall, Australian farmers voted overwhelmingly in favor of a five-year "stabilization plan" for wheat. The plan in its present form was proposed by the Australian Agricultural Council last January and was eventually approved by all Australian governments. It is designed to level off, to some degree at least, the peaks and dips of income derived from wheat production.

The plan guarantees growers a return on their wheat at least equal to what is called "the ascertained cost of production." This is estimated from season to season by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. In recent years the figure has run between \$1.30 and \$1.40 a bushel. As it would be impossible for the bureau to estimate each individual farmer's production costs, it must be presumed that this is a broad average figure. If such a presumption is correct, and the guaranteed return to producers is based on this figure, it would appear that efficient farmers, whose production costs are low, will benefit more than those whose costs are higher.

As far as export wheat is concerned, the Australian government will guarantee, for the next five years, a minimum return equal to the cost of production for up to 100 million bushels a year. This is more than Australia normally exports, except in bumper years.

If the price of export wheat is 20 cents a bushel or more above the estimated cost of production, the farmer will pay an export tax of 20 cents a bushel. If the export trade is above the cost of production, but less than 20 cents a bushel above it, the farmer will pay a tax equal to that portion of 20 cents by which the price is higher than the production cost figure.

This money will be used to form a stabilization fund. The fund will be paid out to farmers if and when the price of export wheat drops below the cost of production. When this happens, the returns to the wheat growers will be made up to the level of the cost of production figure through payments from the fund. Should the fund become exhausted, the Australian government will meet the obligations of the guarantee.

The fund will not be allowed to exceed \$44 million. If it becomes larger, the excess will be repaid to the wheat producers through the oldest contributing pool at that time.

It is a fundamental part of the plan that the price of wheat used for domestic purposes in Australia shall not be less than the estimated cost of production. Subject to this understanding, the plan provides that the home consumption price will be determined by State legislation (and all States have now agreed to this) at \$1.54 a bushel. If the export price should drop to below this figure, the domestic price will vary downward to conform with it.

This plan seems likely to remain generally acceptable in Australia just as long as the stabilization fund can be maintained through the payment

of the export tax. If, however, the export price of wheat tumbles and the fund becomes exhausted, the plan will simply resolve itself into a scheme for subsidizing wheat producers at the expense of the rest of the country. Whether it would long survive on that basis, would remain to be seen.

ARE FOOD PRICES TOO HIGH?

City dwellers often forget that unconsciously they contribute their share to the rising costs of farm products. It is tempting to rail against food prices or seek to bring them down. It may occasionally be wiser to wonder how we will keep the "man who feeds us" feeding us, if we make his job unrewarding by comparison with other employment.

In farmer-consumer relations consumers hold a blind and perilous power. The power to decide by their chance tastes in buying where our manpower will find it most profitable to work . . . and what it will pay Canada most to produce. Radios . . . or Bread? Meat . . . or motorcars? Pulpwood for comics . . . or Lumber for homes? Soft drinks . . . or milk? This is the choice we make each time we shop. For one industry . . . say a television factory or a distillery . . . can outbid another . . . say a dairy farm . . . or its manpower only through our greater readiness to buy more of and pay more for what the winning industry produces. Fifty years ago, in Quebec, for example, 65% of the people lived on the land and easily fed the 35% living in cities. Then steak cost 10c a lb. — today 75% live and produce "things" or services in cities — these must be fed by the shrunken 25% left on the farms — so steak no longer costs 10c a lb.

We all like gadgets, but their price may be higher than we think. The refrigerators on your street alone may have siphoned ten men away from the farm, where cows, who won't keep union hours, are losing out to factories that will. This is one factor behind rising milk prices. Only by making it more rewarding for men to produce food than gadgets can we turn back the tide now rapidly emptying our farms of their labor. To want cheap necessities is human. But is it wise? Today many consumers spend more readily 7c for 6 ounces of soft drink than 22c or 24c for 40 ounces of milk. We employ, hence produce, where we spend. It may be time we examined more thoughtfully what our consumer dollar does to us who spend it.

Renee Vautelet,
National President C.A. C.

A large number of farmers gathered February 2nd in the Legion Hall at Bonnyville for a meeting of the Bonnyville F. U. A. Local No. 411. Mr. W. S. Scott, District President, and F. Wuth, District Secretary, addressed the meeting. The Forsythe Local and Bonnyville Local decided to amalgamate under the Bonnyville Local. They expect to have a membership of over 200.

Highlights of the Executive Meeting

The F. U. A. Executive met in Edmonton on March 11th. All members were present.

A report from the Building Committee was received and the Executive approved their appointment of Mr. Ross Stanley as architect for the new F. U. A. Headquarters.

The whole question of adequate publicity was discussed together with the idea of engaging the services of a Publicity Director for the F. U. A. The President was authorized to look for a suitable person and also to arrange for some radio publicity if possible before the spring rush starts.

The question of raising the rates for advertising in the Organized Farmer was discussed. In view of the large increase in circulation, some increase is necessary to meet increased costs. Mr. Berry of the Co-op Press, was present and discussed proposed advertising rates and methods of getting more advertising. A suggestion that the Executive meet with the Government members of the Legislature to discuss the F. U. A. Program was considered. It was decided to arrange such a meeting if possible.

Mr. Summers, the Roundup Day Director, reported to the Executive on the results of the Sub-district convention workshops, held in many districts. This report showed good results except where cold weather or other causes prevented good attendance. This was Mr. Summers' final report as he planned to leave March 15th.

Mr. Archie Hogg reported on the conference with Hon. Ivan Casey and others on the new legislation to curb trespassing on farm land. The proposed draft, submitted by Mr. Hogg as an outcome of the conference, was approved by the Executive.

The secretary reported that since all membership for 1955 received so far, have now been tabulated, a mistake in the total membership figures has been discovered. This arose through double addition of one day's membership returns. The actual figures to date (March 11th) are 60,480, instead of the larger figure previously mentioned.

After dealing with much routine business and correspondence, the Executive adjourned at 6 p. m.

F. U. A. Sub-District Convention at Federal

A District 11 sub-district convention was held at Federal on February 24th. Mrs. Olive Douglass, F.W.U.A. 1st vice-president, was instructor at the convention. She explained how the resolutions start in the local and go through the district convention, annual convention and on to the Provincial and Federal Governments.

Mr. J. A. Cameron, District Director, was also present and addressed the meeting.

There were buzz sessions, from which the members learned a great deal. Mrs. Douglass and Mr. Cameron put on a play enacting the selling of F.U.A. membership. Another workshop will be held late in March.

GRAIN MARKETING PROSPECTS

(From Geo. McIvor's Address, Calgary, March 3)

1. The Board expects to provide delivery opportunity for practically all of the grain which producers may wish to market during the present crop year. Any grain which will be left on farms at the end of next July will not be a serious factor in the overall farm income of the West.

2. There will be a substantial reduction in stocks of grain carried in Canada on July 31 next as compared with July 13, 1954; but this reduction will principally be in stocks of grain carried over on farms. We will still be carrying substantial stocks of wheat in our storage facilities at the end of the crop year. However, we can hope for a little more elbow room in our storage facilities when the 1955 crop comes along.

3. These results will be brought about on the basis of our anticipation of a normal export of wheat and adequate markets for oats and barley during the present crop year. There are no indications that our wheat exports during the present crop year will be below normal or greatly above normal. We will have not a spectacular but rather a sound marketing year.

4. With reduced crops of oats and barley in 1954 we do not anticipate much trouble in disposing of the surpluses that will be available to us and, of course, up to the present time the Board's selling prices for oats and barley are substantially higher than a year ago.

— March 11, 1954, Wheat Pool Budget.

FARM INCOME DECLINES

Canadian farm cash income from the sale of farm products during the first nine months of 1954 has been estimated at \$1,636,100,000 by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This is a decline of \$251,600,000 or 13% from the same nine month period in 1953.

Almost all of the reduction occurred in the prairie provinces with wheat accounting for the major part of the decline. Farm deliveries of wheat from the first of January until the end of September totalled only 175 million bushels or less than half of the amount delivered during the same period a year ago.

Below is shown farm income by provinces for the first nine months of 1954 and 1953 with the per cent increase or decrease:

	1954	1953	% Change
	(thousand dollars)		
Prince Edward Island	15,900	16,276	down 2%
Nova Scotia	30,297	28,171	up 7%
New Brunswick	31,644	31,215	up 1%
Quebec	301,401	277,687	up 8%
Ontario	555,292	521,449	up 6%
Manitoba	114,854	138,906	down 17%
Saskatchewan	299,448	516,265	down 42%
Alberta	264,947	337,541	down 22%
British Columbia	72,296	70,207	up 3%
Canada	1,686,079	1,937,717	down 13%

— Dec. 24, 1954, Wheat Pool Budget.

SUMMARY OF REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON FARM PROBLEMS

Up to March 17th, 365 locals had sent replies to the January Questionnaire. Replies are still coming in but those on hand are no doubt representative of farm opinion.

Question No. 1—What is the most pressing problem in your particular area?

Answers:

Disparity of prices.....	90
Lack of purchasing power.....	75
Inability to market grain due to lack of storage.....	66
Need for seed and feed grain.....	78
Crop failure.....	11
Inadequacy of P.F.A.A.....	15
Fluctuating prices of forage crop seeds.....	6
High cost of car insurance and rural electrification.....	9
Poor roads.....	10
	330

Question No. 2—What must be done to solve it?

Answers:

Parity Prices.....	87
Larger grain quotas and better allocation of boxcars, etc.....	50
Adequate credit to farmers.....	58
Extension of the P.F.A.A. into a complete crop insurance plan.....	17
More assistance on insurance, rural electrification and roads.....	9
	221

Question No. 3—What is the worst problem facing western farmers?

Answers:

Disparity of farm prices with costs.....	209
High freight rates.....	27
Increasing taxation.....	21
Getting Marketing Board Legislation.....	6
Lack of export markets, trade restrictions, etc.....	3
	266

Question No. 4—What must be done to solve it?

Answers:

Parity prices on farm products must be established.....	182
Producer Marketing Boards.....	38
A Farmers' Union up to 100%.....	26
Higher floor prices on farm produce.....	22
Retain Crow's Nest rates and equalize others.....	18
Free trade, barter trade, lower tariffs.....	17
Long-term export agreements.....	11
Higher grants for education.....	10
More pressure on Governments.....	9
A National Farmers' Union.....	5
A buying strike.....	4
Non-delivery strike.....	2
Payments of farm storage.....	2
Encourage manufacturing in the West.....	2
Amalgamation of F.U.A. and A.F.A.....	1
	349

As will be noticed the answers to these questions do not add up to the same totals nor do they correspond with the totals of the questionnaires returned. This is because not all the questions were answered in some cases and in others the replies were too vague or involved to classify. In some cases answers of a similar nature had to be combined.

However the replies listed above give some very interesting information on the main problems both local and general as our locals see them.

FARM MECHANIZATION

A generation ago Canadian farmers relied on horses for farm power. The peak horse population in this country was in 1922 when there were 3,648,871 such animals. Last year the number of horses in Canada was 993,300, a decline of 2,655,571 since 1922.

In 1931 tractor numbers in Canada totalled 105,360 of which 81,659 were in the prairie provinces.

In 1951 when the last census was taken, tractor number totalled 399,687 of which 236,935 were in the prairie provinces.

In the United States horse numbers on farms last year totalled 3,432,000 compared with 19,220,000 in 1910. On the other hand, U.S. farmers own 4,500,000 tractors, an increase of 3,500,000 since 1930.

— March 11, 1954, Wheat Pool Budget.

F.U.A. WORKSHOP AT EDGERTON

An F. U. A. workshop was held in Edgerton on Tuesday, March 8th, with 46 members and 4 visitors present. Mrs. Redman was chairman and Mrs. D. Gordon was secretary. Mrs. W. C. Taylor assisted Mrs. Redman.

During the day, two panel discussions and two buzz sessions were held. The topics were: "Spread between producer and consumer prices" and "Parity Prices."

Resolutions were presented on the following topics: An executive committee to assist sub-district directors, workshops, income tax and approved savings schemes and income tax.

Mrs. Redman and Mrs. Taylor held a constitutional quiz. Mrs. Redman, assisted by Mr. Newstead, gave a demonstration on how to conduct a mop-up visit.

Mr. Cecil Gordon of Chauvin, was elected sub-director. It was suggested that more locals invite their sub-directors to their meetings.

All agreed that the workshop had been beneficial and hoped more would come next year.

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HOW THE ALBERTA SEED AND FEED POLICY WORKS

By H. Y.

Following the disastrous crop failure in many Alberta districts in 1954 the Provincial Government set up a policy to assist farmers in these areas to get feed and seed. This was done after consultation with Alberta farm organizations.

Under this policy the Government undertook to give aid directly to farmers in the L.I.D. areas and to aid municipalities in the crop failure areas by a government guarantee to the banks on money borrowed by the M.D. for seed and feed relief.

The first part of this policy seems to be working out quite well. In the L.I.D. areas farmers who need seed grain and cannot pay for it at present, are having their needs met up to a maximum of 450 bushels per farm.

The Province is also assisting in providing feed where needed and is paying all transportation costs over 35 miles, providing seed or feed is brought from the nearest source of supply. The L.I.D. areas are of course the direct responsibility of the Government. As far as they are concerned, the seed and feed policy seems to be working out quite well.

However, things are not so rosy in the Municipalities lying in the crop failure areas. In that case the Province merely backs the M.D.'s note and provides a source of seed which may be bought by farmers. All the responsibility for laying down the basis on which farmers will be assisted rests with the council of each M.D. The Government assumes no share of the responsibility in case of a loss. Some of the Municipal Districts with the memories of losses under the seed grain relief of the thirties, are naturally reluctant to do anything which will add to their financial obligations and their load of tax arrears.

This situation ensures inequality of treatment to farmers. Each Municipal District makes its own rules, some are far more generous to their ratepayers than others. Some M.D. councils refuse to co-operate in the plan, regardless of the fact that some farmers in their area may be hard hit by the crop failure. In one case, brought to our attention lately, the Municipal District has finally, and very reluctantly, agreed to provide seed, but to the extent of 100 bushels per farm only.

Of course we know that (theoretically speaking at least) each M.D. is conducting their own affairs and the council can be just as tough as they please in their treatment of their own ratepayers. Still we feel that there should be more equality of treatment for those suffering from a common disaster. Since the Government is responsible to the people as a whole, we feel that they have some responsibility here and should exercise it. Why not an agreement with the Municipal Districts to share losses if they do occur, instead of a mere guarantee to pick up the check in case the Municipal District goes bankrupt, of which there is no risk?

Unless something is done to improve the situation there is grave risk that some farmers who lost their 1954 crop will be unable to seed their full acreage in 1955, and so will lose their opportunity to get back on their own feet this year.

One thing sticking out like a sore thumb is the fact that as far as seed and feed is concerned, the farmers in the L.I.D. areas are getting a better deal than many of those in the Municipalities. Apparently the advantages of local self-government work in reverse in this case. This fact will not tend to popularize Municipal Government among those recently forced into Municipal Districts, nor with those who will get the same treatment in 1956. It would certainly seem that action is called for to bring about a more uniform deal for farmers in the crop failure areas.

F. U. A. DISTRICT 14 THIRD ANNUAL CURLING BONSPIEL

The most successful 4-day F. U. A. Bonspiel on record was held in Lethbridge, March 7th to 10th. A total of 77 rinks participated, representing 25 locals.

Top honors went to the Crystal Lake rink skipped by Gerald Coyne, who won the Sturdie Propane event; 2nd, Marvin Culler from Wrentham; 3rd, Joe Chayka, Readymade; 4th, Claud Baker, Foremost.

The Lethbridge Implement Dealers' event was won by Pete Coyne's rink, Crystal Lake; 2nd, Mike Schneyder, Magrath; 3rd, Jack Koenen, Iron Springs; 4th, Joe Mehalko, Sundial.

The 77 Oil Company event was won by J. A. Staldine rink, Foremost; 2nd, Russell Green, Wilson; 3rd, W. Myers, Taber; 4th, Elmer O'Donnell, Warner.

The District 14 F. U. A. Consolation event was won by Kenneth Mueller rink, Wrentham; 2nd, Howard Kaupp, New Dayton.

Bruce Robinson's rink from Burdett, won the biggest end prize and the C. C. Patching rink, Wilson, the lowest aggregate score, competing in the F.U.A. event.

Nearly three hundred attended the buffet supper and program the second night of the 'spiel at the Marquis Hotel.

It was the feeling of all present that the Bonspiel was a huge success and that next year with the increased interest would be a problem for the curling committee.

This year's committee was: Chairman, H. Patching; Secretary-treasurer, Molly Coupland; Trophies and Prizes, C. Robinson; Draw, E. O'Donnell; Referee and Grievance, F. Meheden; Hospitality, Vic Thompson, Ed. Owen and H. Daine.

PREPARED

Murphy: "What's that in your pocket?"

Pat: "Dynamite. I'm waiting for Casey. Every time he meets me he slaps me on the chest and breaks my pipe. Next time he does it, he'll blow his hand off."

PROMINENT FARM LEADER PASSES

On Friday, February 11th, Lew Hutchinson, a resident of Alberta for 54 years and an outstanding leader in the farm movement, passed away at his home in Calgary in his 85th year. Interment took place at Camrose on Wednesday following funeral services in Calgary on Monday and church services at the little hamlet of Duhamel near his farm home, on Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. Hutchinson was on the provisional board of directors of the Alberta Wheat Pool when the organization was launched in September of 1923, and continued on the board for 30 years, four years of which he was chairman of the board. He was president of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture from 1941 to 1946 and chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Canadian Wheat Board as representative of Alberta grain producers. He was representative of the Alberta barley producers on the National Barley Committees since 1932.

How Mr. Hutchinson came to be selected on the provisional board of the Alberta Wheat Pool is a story in itself. He had been active as a member of the United Farmers of Alberta in the early years of that organization and up until the time it entered the political field in the early 1920's. Lew believed that the move would ultimately wreck the U. F. A. and withdrew from membership, which was hardly a popular move at that time.

In the summer of 1923 when plans for the launching of the Alberta Wheat Pool had reached the stage where a board of provisional directors had to be appointed, Henry Wise Wood, then president of the U. F. A., insisted that farmers who were not members of the U. F. A. should have a representative thereon. A message was sent to Camrose suggesting that such a man be chosen and Lew Hutchinson was selected at a farm meeting held in that town and became a director of the Provisional Board.

Two years after the Pool was organized, the decision was reached to go into the elevator business and Mr. Hutchinson and W. J. Jackman were appointed to an elevator committee. Mr. Hutchinson rendered exceptional service in that capacity due to his thoroughness and shrewd business judgment.

He was highly respected not only among the farm people but among many friends in urban centers. By nature he was kindly and considerate.

(Continued from page 8)

ers and labor have much in common. Just how much is a question that remains for the future to decide. Each depression shows more clearly how closely those two groups are knitted together.

I am not suggesting that they should be amalgamated. That also is a question for the future. But they could co-operate and work together on matters that concern both groups. It is a "make haste slowly proposition" and would require a considerable amount of spade work to prevent misunderstandings, etc. which would be bound to arise occasionally.

Bill Carson

Turner Valley, Alberta.

BUILDING FUND DONATIONS

Previously acknowledged	\$29,959.63
"Brick" Mr. R. Wagner	\$1.00
Mike Marusiak, Local No. 211	2.00
Westlock F.W.U.A. No. 308	4.00
Wildwood School No. 763	3.00
Jas. Irving	3.00
Black Diamond No. 1234	19.00
Dalemead F.F.U.A. No. 1009	10.00
"Bricks" Derwent Local No. 764	31.00
Sub-District 4, District 10	7.00
Hairy Hill Local No. 620	50.00
Bremner Junior Local No. 607	50.00
"Bricks" Briar Ridge No. 3 B. C. Blk.	8.00
"Bricks" Innis Lake Local No. 1017	3.00
"Bricks" Lyalta Local No. 1021	7.00
"Bricks" Stony Plain F.W.U.A.	21.00
Sydenham-Gerald F.W.U.A. No. 710	10.00
John Humphries, District 2	1.00
M. Kehr	4.00
"Bricks" Benalto Local No. 982	2.00
Warner Local No. 1425	50.00
Kitscoty Local No. 772	75.00
Rugby Local No. 1028	10.00
A. Zevenberger, Ft. Macleod	4.00
Edwell F.W.U.A. No. 1019	10.00
Bowling Green Local No. 781	23.25
Zaporoze Local No. 681	43.00
Hazel Bluff Local No. 346	19.34
M. L. Larson, Hardisty	5.00
Morinville Local No. 526	100.00
North Buffalo Lake Local No. 849	10.00
Sedalia F.W.U.A. No. 1110	6.00
J. D. Rogers, Bindloss No. 1302	5.00
Alix F.W.U.A. No. 901	10.00
Mirror Local No. 976	34.96
"Bricks" Kinuso Local No. 223	17.00
Partridge Hill Nos. 691 and 619	28.00
Chipman Local No. 689	20.00
"Bricks" sold at Genesee meeting	20.00
Big Valley Local No. 1101	20.00
Plainfield Local No. 1218	35.00
Mr. McGregor, Fort Kent	3.00
Sprucefield F.W.U.A. No. 912	60.00
Rolling Hills Local No. 769	13.00
"Bricks" sold at Painter Creek meeting	25.00
"Bricks", Community Hall meeting	20.00
"Bricks" sold Merna School meeting	20.00
Arrowwood Locals Nos. 1201 & 1225	30.00
"Bricks" sold at Ohaton meeting	26.00
"Bricks" sold, Avonroy Hall meeting	31.00
Elbridge Local No. 316	30.00
Berrywater F.W.U.A. No. 1202	27.25
"Bricks" sold at Glendon meeting	36.00
"Bricks" Richmond Park No. 329	14.00
Briar Ridge No. 3 B. C. Block	6.50
A. R. Cameron, Sedgewick	1.00
A. G. Aitcheson, Sedgewick	4.00
"Bricks", High Prairie No. 220	20.00

TOTAL \$31,107.93

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Every farmer should satisfy himself that his 1955 crop gets away to a good start by selecting a variety well-suited to his district, and ensuring that his seed is of high quality.

How Good Is the Seed YOU Intend To Sow?

1. Is It the Right Variety?

There are wide differences in disease resistance, time of maturity and market quality among varieties. No one variety will fit into all local conditions. Select a variety recommended for your area.

2. Will It Grow?

Good sound seed should have a high germination test. This can be checked either by making a test at home or by sending a sample to the Government Seed Laboratory.

3. Is It Free From Weed Seeds?

Noxious weeds introduced by sowing uncleaned seed can be difficult . . . it is always costly . . . to eradicate from your farm.

4. Is It Free From Other Crop Seeds?

Other crop seeds such as rye or barley in spring wheat lead to substantial discounts when marketed. Don't pay seed price for seed containing foreign kernels, inert matter or cracked seeds.

5. Is It Free From Diseased Kernels?

Smut, Blight, Ergot and other diseases in seed will greatly lower the value of your crop. Disease can be controlled by treatment, but if in doubt, play safe . . . use healthy seed.

6. Is It Sound and Plump?

Sound seed should be free of damage, should be plump and uniform. Soundness indicates good seed quality and ensures a uniform seeding rate.

If Buying New Seed Use Only Registered or Certified Grades.

Consult Your District Agriculturist About Varieties To Use
. . . About Obtaining New Seed Stocks.

YOU CAN ALSO GET ASSISTANCE FROM
YOUR LOCAL U. G. G. AGENT



UNITED GRAIN GROWERS LTD.

Alberta Wheat Pool News

At the beginning of March the Alberta Wheat Pool issued cheques totalling \$430,000 as a purchase of 5 per cent of all outstanding commercial and elevator reserves. No purchase was made which would reduce the member's reserves to less than \$5.00.

Members should understand that this payment is not subject to income tax, being actually return of capital.

Decision to make the payment was reached at the annual meeting of the Alberta Wheat Pool delegates held last autumn. There was considerable debate as to whether or not there should be a purchase of 5 per cent of all reserves. A portion of the delegate body thought such purchases should be confined to older farmers who had quit farming and to estates of deceased Pool members, and that such should be a general policy of the organization. However, the majority was in favor of the rateable purchase of 5 per cent of all reserves.

Earlier in the year, cheques totalling \$275,000 were paid out in full settlement of the reserves of members who have retired from farming and held no land, and also from the estates of deceased members.

The cash patronage dividend on deliveries to Alberta Pool Elevators in the 1953-54 crop year, totalling about \$600,000, will be made in the springtime, probably around the end of May.

These payments have been made possible because of large handlings in Pool elevators and also because of revenue derived from storage charges. Alberta Pool members should understand that good earnings depend on good patronage. If deliveries to Pool elevators decline, earnings go down.

It should also be understood by the membership that the Alberta Wheat Pool is an organization which operates for their protection as well as to provide savings. Its interest and activities cover a wide field and that has proven to be an important asset to the agricultural industry.

As a farmer-owned co-operative the Alberta Wheat Pool places great reliance on the loyal support of the grain producers. Every Pool member should do his best, not only to see that his own grain goes through the Pool elevator, but that he encourages others to do likewise.

